

September 14, 2005

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U.S. Congresswoman Allyson Y. Schwartz, 13th District of Pennsylvania

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How would you rate the federal government's response efforts to Hurricane Katrina?

☐ Excellent

☐ Good

☐ Average

☐ Poor

☐ Very Poor

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Dear Friend,

As a Member of Congress, I take very seriously my role to ensure the safety of our communities. We must be vigilant in our military and security efforts to hunt down and destroy terrorist cells. We also must work to ensure that homeland security officials have the resources and support that they need to keep us safe.

On August 2, I spent the day holding briefings with the security heads of SEPTA, the U.S. Coast Guard/ Area Maritime Security Committee Managing Board and the Philadelphia International Airport, as well as top-level officials of the Montgomery County and Philadelphia police departments.

I requested these meetings because I wanted to hear first-hand from local officials about their concerns and discuss the most pressing needs that they are facing. It is important to me to know what is working and what is not, and to hear directly from our first-responders on what measures need to be taken to ensure our safety and preparedness.

As millions of dollars is being spent on homeland security in the Philadelphia region, it is also very important to me that we spend public dollars wisely and effectively. We must make sure that public officials are held accountable for spending taxpayer dollars responsibly and that the proper investments are being made to ensure the region's security needs are being met.

As a result of the briefings, it was clear to me that local agencies are working together in an unprecedented manner, across both county and agency lines - and I applaud the efforts of our first responders.

information on relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina please click here.

E-MAIL UPDATES

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Schwartz Fights for Increased Homeland Security Investment

Serving in her first term, Rep. Schwartz has already led several efforts to increase funding to first responders and for increased port security investment. Earlier this year Schwartz offered an amendment to the Budget Resolution that would have increased funding to first responder programs, such as fire and police departments, by \$760 million and port security by \$150 million.

Schwartz has also called for greater action to be

Hurricane Katrina demonstrated just how vital this type of cooperation and inter-agency communication is to response efforts in the event of a national incident.

For more information on my work on homeland security and other issues, please visit my [Web site](#).

Sincerely,

Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

District Homeland Security Meetings

Airline security

Philadelphia International Airport / Rep. Schwartz attended a security briefing with Deputy Federal Security Director, Transportation Security Agency, William Ross (USN Ret.).

Port security:

Pennsylvania's International Seaport / Rep. Schwartz attended a security briefing with Captain David L. Scott, U.S. Coast Guard Delaware Bay Sector Commander; LCDR Soo Klein, U.S. Coast Guard, Director of Port Security Planning; and a delegation of members from the Philadelphia Area Maritime Security Committee Managing Board.

Mass transit security:

SEPTA / Rep. Schwartz attended a security briefing with James Jordan, Assistant General Manager SEPTA.

Philadelphia Police Department:

Rep. Schwartz attended a security briefing with Chief Inspector Joe O'Connor, Philadelphia Police Department Homeland Security Unit.

Montgomery County Police Department:

Rep. Schwartz attended a security briefing with Thomas Sullivan, Director, Montgomery County Department of Public Safety.

taken against terrorist organizations and nations that harbor terrorist groups. Earlier this year Schwartz signed on in support of the [Iran Freedom Support Act](#). This important, bipartisan legislation calls for tougher sanctions against Iran, a nation whose regime poses one of the gravest threats to the international community.



Representative Schwartz meets with Captain David L. Scott of the U.S. Coast Guard to discuss port safety.

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